

IN THE CLAIMS**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

1. (ORIGINAL) A playing card delivery shoe from which cards may be dealt comprising
 - a) an area for receiving a first set of cards;
 - b) first card mover that moves cards from the first set to a card staging area wherein at least one card is staged in an order by which cards are removed from the first set of and moved to the card staging area;
 - c) second card mover that moves cards from the card staging area to a delivery area wherein cards removed from the staging area to the delivery shoe are moved in the same order by which cards were removed from the first set of cards and moved to the card staging area; and
 - d) card reading sensors that read at least one element of information of card rank, card suit or card value of each card separately after each card has been removed from the area for receiving the first set of cards and before removal from the card delivery area.
2. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 1 wherein at least one card but less than an entire deck of cards is present in the staging area.
3. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 2 wherein from 1 to 2 cards are present in the staging area.
4. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 1 wherein after completion of card reading of at least one card in step d), a system of comparison is present to compare the suit and rank of the at least one card to expected card information.
5. (ORIGINAL) The storage shoe of claim 4 wherein the expected card information is present in a memory storage component in at least one of the shoe and an external computer for each shuffled set of cards inserted in the area for receiving a shuffled set of cards.

6. (ORIGINAL) The storage shoe of claim 4 wherein the system of comparison is present to compare the suit and rank of the cards read in step d) with the expected card information for each shuffled set of cards inserted in the area for receiving a shuffled set of cards.
7. (ORIGINAL) The storage shoe of claim 1 wherein said at least one information is read in the device before the card is being removed from the storage device.
8. (ORIGINAL) The storage shoe of claim 5 wherein the first set of cards comprises a shuffled set of cards.
9. (ORIGINAL) A card storage shoe comprising a card in-feed area where an approximately vertical set of cards can be seated, a card moving element that moves one card at-a-time from the approximately vertical set of cards, an automatic mechanical transporting system for horizontally transporting individual ones of cards moved from the vertical set of cards to a card delivery area, and a card reading system that reads at least one of suits, rank and value of cards before cards become stationary in the card delivery area.
10. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 9 wherein a buffer area is present between the card in-feed area and the card delivery area and at least some cards remain stationary for a time in the buffer area before being delivered to the card delivery area.
11. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 10 wherein only one card may be present in the card buffer area at any time.
12. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 11 wherein cards are read in the shoe as they enter the card buffer area or when the cards are within the card buffer area.
13. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 9 wherein cards are read in the shoe after they leave the card buffer area but before they are stationary in the card delivery area.

14. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 9 wherein more than one sensor is present along a path between the card in-feed area and the card delivery area to detect the presence of cards at specific locations.

15. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 13 wherein a sensor-reader reads cards discontinuously when the sensor-reader is triggered by a card detection sensor in the shoe.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of providing at least one card to a dealer for manual delivery of the cards by a dealer comprising:

placing a set of cards within a card in-feed area;
mechanically moving cards in the order in which cards are removed from the set of cards from the set of cards from the card in-feed area to a card delivery area where at least some cards become stationary;
reading individual cards for at least one of rank, suit or value after the cards are removed from the card in-feed area and before the cards become stationary in the card delivery area.

17. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16 wherein the set of cards is placed in an approximately vertical stack in the card feed area.

18. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16 wherein at least one card from the set of cards is moved to a buffer area between the in-feed area and the card delivery area, and at least one card remains stationary within the buffer area until the card delivery area is sensed to be empty of cards.

19. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16 wherein at least one card that remains stationary in a buffer area remain in the buffer area until a signal generated from the shoe indicates that at least one card is to be moved from the buffer area to the card delivery area.

20. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19 wherein the signal is generated by a sensor in the card delivery area indicating that an additional card is desired in the card delivery area.

21. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 19 wherein the signal is generated by a sensor in the card delivery area indicating that no cards are present in the card delivery area.

22. (ORIGINAL) A card delivery shoe having a storage end and a delivery end, the shoe storing a first set of cards in the storage end and allowing manual removal of cards from the delivery end, at least one first sensor in the delivery end that senses when a card is absent from the delivery end and sends a signal to a motor that a card is to be delivered to the delivery end, and a motor that mechanically delivers a card to the delivery end of the shoe.

23. (ORIGINAL) The card delivery shoe of card claim 22 wherein at least one sensor reads card values in the card delivery shoe before a card that is read is stationary in the card delivery end.

24. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 1 wherein a card position sensor is present that triggers operation of the card reading sensors so that discontinuous signals of cards are provided by the card reading sensors.

25. (ORIGINAL) The shoe of claim 9 wherein a card position sensor is present that triggers operation of the card reading system so that discontinuous signals of cards are provided by the card reading system.

26. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 16 wherein a card position sensor triggers reading of individual cards so that discontinuous signals of cards are provided.

27. (ORIGINAL) The card delivery shoe of claim 22 wherein a card position sensor is present that triggers operation of card reading sensors so that discontinuous signals of cards are provided by the card reading sensors.

5

~~Claims 1-27. All of the claims in the application, have been~~
~~102(b)As Anticipated by McCrea, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. (unspecified) Either 6,093,103 or~~
~~6,117,012~~

It is asserted that the reference shows each and every limitation of the claims, as recited.

6

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- BLACK BORDERS**
- IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- OTHER: _____**

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.